

To the Editor,

During this legislative year it is extremely important for all citizens, including students, to be informed about what is going on in Salem at the capital. Students here on campus need to hear about what is being proposed to our senators.

This February the 22nd students from all over Oregon will be meeting at the state capital to rally for student related issues. Among these issues is the A.S.P.I.R.E. program. A.S.P.I.R.E. is a program which pairs high school students with volunteer mentors who can help them “aspire” to a post secondary education.

One year after the A.S.P.I.R.E. program was started at Ashland High School 80% of seniors went on to some sort of post secondary education, over a 10% increase from the previous year.

Students are asking for 1.7 million dollars of funding to expand this program to 285 Oregon High Schools. This will bring this important resource where it is most needed, to help students in more rural areas who may not have the resources that they require to go on to post secondary education.

I hope the community at-large also chooses to become educated about topics such as A.S.P.I.R.E. It is programs like these which could have a huge impact on the lives of students, provide needed access to higher education, and benefit all of Oregon by have a qualified and competent citizenry.

Please consider this, our future depends upon it.

Sincerely,

Daniel Maduell

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